A SHORT

DISCOURSE

OF THE

True Knowledge

O.F

CHRIST JESUS.

To which are Added,

Some Passages in the Reasondbleness of Christianity, &cc. and in Vindication.

With some Animadversions on Mr. Edwards's Resellation on the Resonablemes of Christianity, and on his Book, Entitued, Socialanism Unmark'd.

By S. Bold, Rector of Steeple, Dorfet.

For other Foundation can no Man ley than that is land, which is Jefus Chrift, I Cor. 3, 11.

LONDON: Printed for A and J. Churchil at the Black Swan in Pater Nofter-Row. M DC XC VII.

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There is no beautiful to the second of the

e and Salve view before he was Comorized, winn what the had soft them the convertion. I have things which before his Convertion he

thought Philip III. 310

Year doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the order of the bush less in Lards and the second of the bush lards and the second of the second of

Because he then

In the Applie doth not here speak of any thing that was people to himself either as an aretransphary growth, but what was common to him, with every True Relevers of linear Christian. For these words are but part of the Identition be appreced to that Property of true Believers of Christians he had laid down in the last Clapse of the third Verse of this Chapter who have to considerce in the Flesh

in the feveral Verse he relates the chiffment Opinion and Judgmens he had at Marters with relation to Judifica-

tion and Salvation before he was Converted, from what he had of them after his Conversion. Those things which before his Conversion he reckon'd Gain, i.e. which he thought were the matter of a Persons Righte-onsies, the things which being enjoy'd would Justifie, and render a Person acceptable to God, and warrant his being consident of Salvation, he accounted Loss, after he was effectually Regenerated: Because he then knew that Christ alone is our Righte-onsies, and that he only can save us.

In these words he declares again, with great Earnestnoss, that he looks upon the possession and enjoyment of all those things he formerly thought would constitute Persons Righteons and Happy, and every thing clie distinct from Christ, that any can place their considence in, to be of no more moment and consideration to these Purposes than heaps of Dung, and Dross can be to the nourishing of a Man's natural Life; and to the making of him Wealthy. And as christ and is our Righteousness, and he only

only can justifie and fave us, fo it is by the knowledge of Christ, that we receive from him those, and all those singular and inclimable Benefits and Bieffings. He is intrusted to dispense. This knowledge of Christ letts is so indepted to this lend, hath such a foundation with it, by Divine Ordinarion and Appointment, hath such as Excellency in it, such a Power, Estady, and Firtue for the deriving of these Mercies and Bieffings to us from Christ, that all other things are perfectly infiguration, are a very great Deriving and Salvarios, are a very great Deriving and Damage.

In order to a more diffine underflanding of these words, I will briefly consider four things in them, and then conclude with thewing some Uses we should make of what shall be dis-

confider are, First, The matter of this

Secondly, What kind of Knawledge at 11 of this point, which the Apolle

3 doth

doth thus magnific and artol, and give fuch a preference to eshaliness, and yet

Thirdly, Wherein the excellency of this Knowledge worth specific Ander Fourthly, The quantity of Region who knows thrift felse single, doub make affall ather things should all I

Buthod ball captiden what is the natter of this Knowledge, the Apolle here speaks of or what is the object to be known. This he expressed in these words, Christ Jesus, that is, that the Person God had promised to food into the World to be the Sevieur of Sinners, was Him who is generally known, and was fignally diffing highed from other People by this Name Jefmes or that He who is commonly known, and peculiarly traken of by this name Jefus, is the Perisa God did deligh, and promise to lendown the World to be the Saviour of Sinners Ther Jesus is the Christo the Person God hath anointed and commissioned so the Office; and that He is the jonly and the all sufficient, and most gracious viour of Sinners. That Jefu is the Christ (the Person, God thath commillioned to be the Saviour of Singers

is the Proposition I conceive the Apothe here speaks of, the object of that Knowledge here commended. And this is the Gespel Arichly and most properly confidered, Lut. 2. 10, 11. dit.4.12. The fulfilling of the Prophecies, which went before concerning the Meffeb, or the Perion God had promiled to fend, in this Jefus; and his declaring that he was that Perfor, and doing fuch things to confirm the truth of what he Taught, as could not be wrought and effected but by the extraordinary and immediate Power of God, afford sufficient Evidence to perfwade Men of the truth of this Propofirem, that Jesus is the Christ. This Intake to be the matter or object of that Knowledge the Apostle here speaks of. Not that I think a bare speculative Knowledge of this Article or Proposition is the Knowledge the Apolite doth thus magnife and fet fuch a value on. Therefore I shall

Secondly, What kind of Knowledge of this Propolition it is, the Apolitic doublere speak of. And it is such a Knowledge as doth effectually deter.

mine the Perfon, and cause him to Jefus to be faved by him in his own way. Such a knowledge of him, as makes the Person to take him for his Lord; fo that he will use his ferious, boneft, and best endeavours to understand what he hath rought and revealed, and will affent to, believe and obferve whatever he shall attain to know He hath raught or revealed; and will depend wholly on Him to receive from Him in his own way, the benefits He is intrusted to dispence. The notional and speculative knowledge of Christ Jesus, harh its weefulness, being the Foundation on which the other is builded, but it may be without the latter, and therefore is not faving, but the latter cannot be without the farmer, no more than a Superstructure can be without a Foundation. A Man may have a notional knowledge of a Truth that is of extraordinary moment and ufefulness, and yet not be duly affects ed with it; his knowledge may have little or no influence on him, because he does not apply it to its proper ord, he does not descend to consider much

much it dorh concern himfelf. Were there a Person that could infallibly cure forme certain Diftemper, and the proof of this Truth were most strong and clear, fo that there were no room for deabe and exception, a Person who does not apprehend himself annoyed with that Distemper, tho' he is fatisfied that fuch a Person can infallibly cure it, will not be prevailed with, and determined by his knowledge, to yield up himfelf absolutely to his Condull, the when he comes to be convinced that he is dangerously ill of that Difeafe; and that he cannot be cured any other way, but by committing himself entirely to that Person, his knowledge will have this effect on him, that he will reader himself up entirely to his guidance and management. When we are throughly fenfible that we are Sinners, under the Curfe of the Law, and justly abnarrous to the most beavy displeasure and wrath of Almighey God, and that there is no way for our obtaining Peace with Jefus Chrift, then our knowing him to be the only, the all-fufficient, and a moft most compassionate and gracious Sacition of Sinners, will dispose and influence us to religit apound claus withmurve fee paries to his Condecto and to nely and depend on Him to favous in this mon may, able came to feek and to free shofe who are top, who are muly yearble of their lost estate, while your And being will not availage to Salturion, the you can Diferente ever fo accorniely on every pion in your Bi-We will it thevelchis effect on you, to make you refigured your felves unferenedly unto Christ as your Lord. But the Perion who is brought to this, a Christ's Disciples a true Believer, and real Chaptan, the as yet he does nor know day other Dulbring Christ hard ranging bur only engages heartippe ale his best endeavours to know or affert uniound perform the fame, and reforedly applies himfelf to fut-Industry and Fidelity. This is that to hich confirmes and makes a Performance of the dingere Christian, a real Diference of Christ, and a true Believer's And his flore

his regular purward famifying and te-(tifying of this gives him a Right to the external Denomination of a Chrifian, &c. The true notional knowledge of Christ Jefus is the Jame for the matter, with the spiritual and practical knowledge of Him, but this latter makes the Person perceive the esofulness and necessity of Christ Jelus to himself, and begets in him futtable Affection, to Chrust. He who this knows Christ Telas is fentible, that He is the most necessary and aleful Good to him, end charefore cannot, but leve him, relige up himself anticely to Him, truft in Him and labout to under-Rand and know his Wall, that he may explicitely believe what he hath ranghe, and actually observe and perform what he hath appointed and commanded, that thus be may apprece his Fidelity and alreas the ends particularly or more appeally intended by his Lord, in the leveral instances he shall understand to be taught by Him, relating either to Belief on Frallice. He knows that Christ Jesus is worthy of all his Service, and therefore gives up himself unto Him, implicitly and with-

without exception, to follow his Conduct, both as to Fairl and Obedienet. Thus when he finds or understands, that Jefus Cheift hath taught that He is God, and that He commissioned his Apolies to teach fo, and that they did it very expresly, he beartily bf-He is God, because He hath taught it. And his not being able to folve all difficulties that curious and contentious People may fart about this marter : or to fay much, or any thing concerning the Mede, or way how He is God, is no obfinele to his firm and fledfalt Beltef of it, facing he knows Chill hath declared it; no more than his not being able to reconcile fome matter of prattice he understands Christ hath enjoyned him, to his worldly Interest, can excuse him from performing it. Because his Refignation to Christ was absolute and entire in both respects, and he did not Capita-dure with Christ, to believe nothing that what he should be able to dive to the bottom of and give a rational account of the mode and monter of, or ro obey him only in fuch Instances as he

he should know how to reconcile to his worldly Interest and Convenience. What falls fhort of this practical knowledge of Obrist Jojus, is not in Scripture account the knowledge of Christ Jefus He that faith I know him, and keepeth not his Commandments is a lyar, and the truth is not in him, I John 1. 4. This is that knowledge of Christ Jesus, the excellency whereof is fuch, it obscures and Stains the Glery of all things which can come in competition with it. So that the true Christian accounts all things but life (as the Apostle en preffeth himself) for the excellence of it! Which shall lead me to con-Had the Son of God meerly grabit

Thirdly, It what the excellency of this knowledge of Christ Jafus dath owifft. Concerning which I shall moniton these particulars:

which is the revelation or discovery God hath made that Jefus Christ is the Person He hath sent and commissioned to be the Saviour of Sinners) and in the propartion it hath to the special Intendment of that Revelation

ou, vizachat we may refign up our selves intirely to him, and thereby be made his Disciples, and be interested in Him, as our Sevious; or more briefly, that we may believe in Him. and be faved by him, or be made true Christians, and partake of the Benefits. which belong to them, It is not the bare knowing that there was such a Perfor as Jeins Christ in the World, no nor that He was the Son of God, and effumed our Nature, &c. but ther He was feut, appointed, and commifioned by God to be the Saviour of Sinners This is the immediate, the most proper, and first object of Chris flian knowledge, and faving Faith. Had the Son of God, meerly of his own accord, assumed our Nature, performed the most perfect Obedience to the Law, and suffered Death for our sakes, how great soever the merinfick mances and Sufferings would have conferent tuted or made Him the Sautour of Simers; Nor would our knowing and believene all this, have evailed us to Tuffificarion and Salvation That which

white makes what He did and Suffered tonbe accepted for un and makes Him the Sapiour of Singers, was his being appeared and commissioned to be their Savieur. And it is our knowing Him to be the Person that God did fend and commission for this parpofe, and knowing it for do to answer the defige of this Revelation, which doth make us Christians, and interest us in Him as our Sevieur. For I have given them the words which thou gavest me, and they have received them, and have known furely that I came out from thee, and they have lieved that thou didst fend me, John 17.8.

and fruit of the Holy Spirit of God. I will give them an Heart to know me, that I am the Lurd, and they shall be my People, and I will be their God, for they shall neturn unto me with their whole Heart, Jer. 24.7. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no Main speaking by the Spirit of God, tallerb Joses accomsed, and that no Main san lay that Jesus is the Lard, but by the Holy Ghost, a Cor. 22.3. Tho' the Lord

Lord Jefus doth not oblige himfelf not to give forth the special influences of with their ferious using their natural Abilities, and the common affiftances of the Spirit generally afforded, in those ways he hath appointed, in order to Peoples partaking of his supernatural Aids and Bleffings, yet he means he hath ordained; and we have not any reason to expect these supernatural effects any other way. When he does extraordinarily, and out of his common and Instituted way, work on, awaken, convince, and effectually convert Sinners, as he did Saul, when Travelling on fuch a wrerchedly wicked delign towards Damafent, he does it not as King and Ruler, but as absolute Lord. And when we find our felves to inlightned, and power-fully wrought on, in the use of Inflia tuted means, that we are effectually determined to yield up our felves intirely to Christ, as our Lord, this offeet is from the special influence of the Haly Spirit, and must be attributed unto Him. Faith is the gift of God, tho'

the ordinarily conferred along with our making ple of the natural Powers we are endued with in the ways and merhods infliruted for this end, as reading and hearing the Word, Meditation, Prayer, Go. There is no natural connection between our employing of our natural Abilities, and Powers in these ways, and this bapar effect. for God both not obliged himfelf to bestow this Blefing by the Rules and Laws he hath elfablished to oblerve in the ordinary way of his Providence. in ordering and governing the World, to lar as doth concern and relate to Man. | The connexion between them is purely Gracious, by virtue of the Laws and Rules He hath fixed to proceed by, in the dispensation of bu Grace. We may by that concurrence God affords in the way of his ordimany Providence, attain to as great a measure of speculative, notional, discoursive knowledge of what the Gospel doth teach, as we can of those matters which are treated of in other Books, provided we do proportionably apply our Study to them. But when in our using our natural Abilities these ways We 3013

we are brought to close unfeignedly with christ, and yield up our selves entirely to his conduct, this is owing to a divine influence vouchfafed beyoud the ordinary course of Providence, and is from God's proceeding with usaccording to his Law of Grace. The are estinet apprehend in what way the Spirit doth effect, and bring about this excellent and happy change in us, so as certainly to diffinguish what is done by the Spinit, from what is done by our natural Abilivies cooperating, yet we know by the effect that He hath exerted his wonderful Power, and to Him melt all the

Glory be afectived, who is the principle pale agent in this business. The principle agent in this business. The fingular and inestimate the Benefits which to accrue anto us upon on our thus knowing of Christ Jesus. Of Which Benefits I will now name but these trees.

but shell use. ing as to be in the Covenant of Grace. By Justification I do mean fomething more than his Pardoning all our past. Sins, even a change of our State, his acquitting and discharging us from the

the Dan of Works, as a Covernat of Maferii Were all inty Sins freely par doned, and I left under the Law of Works, this Pandominould not hvail me anyuthing history Life were at all continued, for my very next performances would full for flort of what that Vaninequires, Infhould immedia ately be in the Jame flure I was in bo fore my Pardonib We are all under the Law of Works till we do fo know Christ Jefus, as to wield up our selves unreferredly unto his Conduct of Indeed two are not now to under the Law of Works, as our fielt Parents were immediately on their Transgress bh, and before that gracious Promife that riber Seed of the Woman Should break the Suspensished, was given them; for till their they were purely under the Daw of Works, and me no remember Line vto make he of for their Whief We are not ally fill under that Law of Works, only we have this advantage, that now there is at Law of Pardon, or a remediant Law emeurrent with it, if we will make the of it. But till we comply with and accept of that Law, ite a do asily. B 1 vield

yield up our felves absolutely to obrish force against upon the design beauty

Our lo knowing of Christ Jefus as hath been mentioned, is our actual confenting to the gracious tender and offer God hath made to all Sinners. without excepting any, whereby we come to be really in the Covenant of Grace. What is ordinarily called the Covenant of Grace, is only the Declararion and Testament which Christ hath made of the Grace of God, or the Bleffires he will beflow on all those who do or shall unfeignedly confent to yield up themselves sabjolutely to Him. It is a Covenant only with those who do thus confest unto it. And upon sour giving up our selves thus to Christ, God owns us to be in Covenant with the Of this Covenant Christ Jesus is the Mediator, to whom it permits to see, that both parts of the Covenant thus consented to be performed. We are to do what is offigued to us, v. c. we must follow Christ's Conduct in every thing we shall know he fath ordanied for us, and therefore must use our bonest endeavours to understand what

what he hath taught; and upon our doing lo, we come to be entitled to the Benefits God hath promifed, which Christ is also to see accomplished, and made good unto us. When we know Christ Jesus aright, we are delivered from the power of darkness, and manslated into 2. Power to perform fuch Obedience as God will gracefully accept. This feelal effect of the Holy Spirit, is not dead notion, but the Light of Life, a divine vital principle, which that an influence on all the Process of the Soul, and Faculties of the whole Man splitting and directing them all in a good medfure, in ways totrable to its own Nature, and the end for which it is grown. It possesset the S a predomigant Love to Che influences the Perion to labor a Conformity to Him. It puts Person upon considering and enquiring what things Pie, whom he hath taken for his Lord hath revealed, what he doth Command, and in what manner is behaves him, now he hath thus refigned himfell to Him, to be-

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have himself; and it surnishes him with ability to execute the same, by deriving stell supplies of french from that Holy Spirit who is the day shor of this divine great Principle. It displies and enclineth him to do those good Works Christ hath came manded him, and to the thole means third both anioxeed, in order to his ecewing greater measures of the influences of the Holy Spirit, Epha 10. Such a Perion a Good Works and C bedience are accepted with God, no because of their mirrolics worth, but only for the werehold General who hash procured the flanger traces, and is the ed Works sented merit Salvanon and its the narrowice of Correct Blood. ne that is the Gift of God have nothing to bealt of, uch for which we are to be chankthe truth of our Faith and that our knowledge of Christins of the right kind: And such is the Greec of God through Christ, that the more we abound in them, the greater thall our Reward oun's

Remard be; not because of their Me-rit, but because of his gracious Pro-mile, assigning degrees of Glary, in proportion to our abounding in new Obedience. We do not derive Power from Christ to merit any thing for our felves, but we receive from Him Power to perform fuch Obedience as shall for his fake be accepted and reparded. Upon our performing such Obedience, we shall receive freely the Blellings He bath merited, and which for his take are made over to us in the Covenant of Grace. Qur Warks of Righteoufress and Goodness do not make us Righteous and Good, but shey pove and discover us to be to a c that we are ended with a device Principle, have our Natures obs and do know Christ John a vital acts do not make a la ere but they prove that ture which performs them, her principle of Life from which is

ails do found in a character of this knowledge is, that it puts a check to wom Guriohty, to a fearch after empty and less necessary Speculations, and delivers

livers in from all carnal and ground less Confidence, and engages us to a commendable Diligence, by determining our enquiries after such things as are maft contain and true in themselves, and will be most useful and prositable unto us, by advancing us both in intellectual and moral Accomplishments and Perfections. For it obliges us to employ our honest and best endeavours to understand, and make a right use of what Jefus Christ hath taught and revealed; which are matters of fuch excellency, that all other things are of little account with those who understand the afe and importance of these, as the Apostle plainly testified, when he faid, he accounted all things but lofs. &c. Which brings me to con-

knows christ Jefus aright deth make of all other things. The Sence a fincers Christian hath of the excellency of this knowledge, discovers it felf in the great alteración it makes in his Opinion and Judgment of all other things from what they were before. He doth set now a just estimate upon

all worldby Enjoyments, and outward Privileges relating to Religion, and exgernal performances in Record, according to cheir feveral Natures, Places, and Ranks, so their afe and ends. He does not absolutely condemin them, as evil in theirfelves, or as altogether useless to any look pur poses, for thould he de for the work be faulty. He owns them to be the good Gifts of God, that w very good ufe may be made of them, is whank ful to God for them, if he renjoys them, and praifeth God for bollowing them on others. He acknowledges they have a beauty and excellency confidered in their proper place and fed-fon. But then he elected them as the Apostle did, as altogether efeles. to the buffness here spoken of be the matter of our Confiden extreamly burrful when depe for Juffifications To be bur les dung when compar'd with, and let opposition to this knowledge of Obrist Jejus, which thath an excellency in it, unipeakably greater than all other things have, and which alone can a vail and profit us to Just pleation and SalSolvetionbut has divine Light which discoura Chill Jafer to a Person, as the Period commissioned by God to he the stylence of Signers, and effectively confetchism, from a fence of his own Street with the Bield up him fell contitoly to a Him, to be seved by Him to be seved by Him to be stayed by the other chings to bits in that a true and differential manner that he plain ly perceives they cannot bear any anepantian with Abrait pland therefore he accounts thematal be delse as to the bulmeloof Suffiffentiem wife to do not effects Christ Jests warrhy enough to the therefore hills which discusses be therefore him or my dependent, Lido and thing him argues which who if I for up dry abid a track of the Morld, as that I will cruit east and depending for Inflication, materials and Chinia and constitution of the literature and chinia and constitution of the literature and chinia and constitution of the literature and chinia and chini greateness briedus where a presend to believe in the Chulft for this purpole. Or in Independ on any thing together with Chulf, the in an inferious degree, I do not take him to be the only and allefufficient Saturns of Singers, and so have dor that knowledge of Christ

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Christ Jesus here spoken of Indeed there are other things we may depend on, and make the ground of our Personality and make the ground of our Personality and spoken as those which are fure, certain, and newer-failing Evidences of our Interest in Christ, as our Naturum and that we do know him aright. But there is not any thing but Christ and his Righteensels, we may implication and depend on for fullistication and Salvation, i. as as that, for the sake of which we shall be Justified and Saved.

hirom what bath been discoursed we may take notice,

First. That Persons may have great Measures, of speculative Knowledge concerning Christ Jesus, and what he hast tample, and not be True Christians. The Apuelle indeed doth tell us, that wholesper believeth, that Jesus is the Christ, is born of Gad, which is the same with his being a True Christian, I John 521. but it is evident, beyond all doubt, by his following discourse, that he doth not speak of a bare speak.

Knowledge and Taith as I have been giving an account of. Such a Knowledge or Bellef that Jefus is the Christ, that is, the Perfon God hath commissioned to be the Saviour of Simers, as doth effectually cause a Person to refigu up himself entirely to Him, doth confirme him a True Christian. Whatever Knowledge or Faith People may have, which falls short of this, will not profit them to Justification, how have a due effect and influence on their Lives. The most pompour Presences with Christ, where this is wanting, Mat. 7.22, 23. Therefore,

Secondly, We ought to make a thorough and impartial fearch concerning our felves, whether we be true Christian. Whether we are fo fully perfereded that Jefus is the Christ, that we do incereby yield up our felves, without any referention to follow his conduction for its not enough that we call our felves Christians, and pretend to own him for our Lord, as Man 7.
221 23 diffeovers But we must justifie the Truth of our owning him to be

be our Lord, by employing our felices heartily to mider thank what He hash raught, and to believe, and make fuch infe of what we attain to have He hath tanger, as we shall perceive he intends

and appoints. For

Thirdly, Tho a right knowledge of this one point, that Jefus is the Christ, doth constitute and make a Person a Christian; yet there are many points Jefus Christ bath taught and revealed, which every fincere Christian is indispenfibly obliged to endeavour to underftand, and make a due use of. When a Person becomes a True Christian, he doth refign himself (as you have been told) entirely unto Christ Jesus as his Lord, and obligeth himfelf, without any refervation, to use his ferious, bonest, and fincere endeavours to know what he hath revealed, and to offent unto, and make fueb ufe of what he shall attain to know he hath revealed, as the nature, or particular incendment thereof (fo far as he shall know the fame) doth direct. He doth not capitulate and compound with Christ, that he will affent unto, and make fuch use as he orders, of just fuch

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frich a number of straigles, but will be excused from concerning damfelf of extend his knowledge, or practice any further. le is out of my Reach fand I am perswaded it is out of the reach of any Man, or Body of Mendico affign a precise number of Articles which are necessary to be explicitly known and believed by all fincere Christians, and beyond which no Christian is obliged to endeavour to proceed in his Fairb and Obedience. Peoples Capacities, Opportunities, and Advantures are very various and different. Many things may be necessary for forme Christians to believe, which are not necessary to be believed by others; because some do attain to the knowledge of them, and a great many more may never attain to the know. ledge of them, and this not because of any faulty omission or neglect to use their bonest endeuvours to underfland what Christ hach made known to the World, but from something elfe which will not be reclaimed to them for a fault. I think a certain number of Arricles cannot be fixed on (bendes this, that Johns is the Christ) which We

we may perimperrily determine multiof necessity being plicitely known and believed, of the Berjon can be fived. For the betteft of the control Dudrines Christ hath ranger, don't would it me or make a Perion a True Christian.

Perhaps forme may be now ready to fay, that sided, for then we are fafe the we benefit for then we are fafe the we benefit for the Dollrines Christ hash ranght, befores this, that Jefarus the Christ, at it we should come to know them we are fufe, the we writte to believe them and make that life of them Christ appoints in who there is the Christ, and so we are free christians, and therefore you, and need not remoble our selves about knowing are believed by thing more.

groully and wremedly one a panete as much as you can, befides this arrivale, your belief will not make you a True Christian. It is the right how-ledge or belief of this arrive, that Join is the Christ, that makes a Perform a True Christ, that makes a Perform a True Christ, that makes a Perform a True Christian. But the bealieving of this, doth not exclude your

believing of other Articles, or difcharge you from any obligation to believe other points, or make your believing of other matters needlefs. But it brings you under an indiferafable obligation to endeavour to know and believe mere. Tho the belief of other points is not necessary to conflitute a Person a True Christian, yet other things are necessary to be believed by him that is a True Christian. The true Christian is obliged to use his best endeavours to know what Christ hath revealed, and to affent unto, and make a right use of what he attains to know Christ hath revealed. And if you do not do thus, you do not approve your selves True Christians, you do not acquit your telves as true Christians ought, and must acquit themselves, If you either neglest to enquire after, and to use your honest endeavours to know what Christ hath revealed, or refuse to affent to and make a good use of what you know he hath revealed; you have just reason to conclude you are not True Christians, and do not know Christ Jesus aright whatever you affirm in your words. There

There are many things Christ hath caught and severaled to plainly in the clearly, so distinctly, you capupy but know fome of them, if you feriously endeavour to know what He hath reyealed and what you know he hath revealed, you must allent to and make we are if you do rightly know and be-Lieve Him to be the only Saviour of Heffed for ever asspail Albit be now ask'd what are those particular Points, or Articles Christ hash revealed, which are necessary for Christians to endenyour to know, and which being known as he revealed by film, they must indispensibly as fem as, and make the or I answer. that what Christ hash revealed, is propounded to usory sertain words which make distingt; Sentencer and Presentions, and being thus confidered, se objects of allegt, and matters of Felch; the when we confiden the nature of the Trucks thus propound col, and their special intendment, they may be conveniently, reduced to particular dentitional and freeds, to which particular den norsinations may be affiguid. Some of their will name, together with cen:

fome particular Propositions Christ thath caught, which proposity teloning to their Heads As is. Their Propositions which

deferbe his Performand infirmed ins commission to be the Source of State God, the only begotten of the Pather God over all, bleffed for ever John 1. rickom. 9. 4. The She of God, and the Ment are often seed in the stew Tex Acres (Paratello de la Caraca de Caraca) the Arrait 246a (USCome Aspec) (USA Rend Por Sugar (USA) (USA) Gor Com Atend (Aspec) who was Sured is the applicand received to the Constitution of the the every contract of the cont that the sure of God was the Men because the Farter did not establish to com-

the Shukarray Smarray When a true Christian understands that Christ Jefig thath maght that 450 mod. He must affect and it, and entersour to besirio the doursthings firengthening, and confidency of his said is altifusioned to faith and which the bath undertaken, and to which He is commissioned And to direct and politice his paying Divine Honor and politice his paying Divine Honor So aldoma Hours male Flesh, didulline our whole Nature) and Was the Man 1. 16. Jak which the Softering in our stead and on our be-tale, authorize the hath synoit tender and on possibility receives for the whole return the did append a blebs a. 14. Heb. 4. 15. 200 and typical

the Wester That we are all fallen short

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of the Glory of God. And there are by Nature the Ghildren of Wrath, Rom of Ry, Rom of the Eph as 3. which may convince us more throughly, of our great need of such a Saviour, make us have more law and humble thoughts of our fathers, and inspire us with most admiring and elevated gratitude and chankfulness, to and for feliminates. He directly a suite

Ally, Those Propositions which instruct us that the lending of this Savious did proceed and faring purely
from the bree Grace, Mercy, and
love of God, and le level the World
that the gave his my beautier des,
that ministere between his bin should
not perile but him everlasting tips on.
John 3: 16, 27. I John 4: Eph. 2.
4. to the 19th This is proper to engage our Admiration and Love Here
is room for our curring chem in their
fulless strength and force.

fullest strength and force.

arbly. Those Propositions which teach us in what ways, and by what steps He did, and doth execute, and will smally accomplish the Mark and Office He Undertook. As, I. By Revealing the Father, and making His

Miss . John . . . Whereby we are farminal with the molt
affeld, per ident, needfary and profitabie infruction, do know where we
are to eastion our Searcher and Enquiries to the best purpose. And what we
may without suituation, doubt, or
wavering, and with the greatest considence enters as and depend upon for

He has fee us an Example in the Life. Hath vifile commences and dispovered the management of what He Commands and Espoyes, And buth heavy us in the most convincing and obliging pay, how we ought to dehereby we perceive that He was admirably fixed for another part of what perceived to Him in His Effate of Humiliation, viz. making Himfell a Sacrifice for our fins, Heb. 7, 16, &c. 3dly, By faffering very many bard-line. ships, immemerable reproaches, and indignities, enduring the Wrath of God,

God, and advaly dying in open vice a Malefactor on the himself a Sacrifice to Carishe Droug Justice for the fins of the World, as giving his Soul a Ransom for Singer Acts = 23 and 36. Heb 0 26 r Per 3. 18. 1 Tim. 2. 6. which discovers the most executable nature of Siz, how extreamly loathform and pateful it is to God, and therefore should be fo to us. This mamifelts the Condescention and Leve of Christ to ve who most affecting manuer that can be magned. And is the most potent Argument to kindle and excise the truest Love in our Souls to Him, and calls for our powerful actions, 2 cor. 5, 14, 16, 4thly, By runn again from the dead the third day, 1 Cor. 15. 4. Rom 1 4. Rom. 4.25. Hereby the Prophece which were before concerning Him and His own Predictions were mole exactly verified and fulfilled. This gives a most certain undeniable demon-firation that His Sacrificing of Humfelf, and his Death-were accepted of God and are prevalent for all the purposes for which they were intended.

ieres, endhring the Wear

T' in frengthens our Faith and Hope in 3. And affines us of the certhe World 1 Pcs. 4. 21 Rom. 8, 11. in the fals of Hu Disciples (after He had given full proof of the truth of His Rejurrection, and commissioned them to Preach His Goige to all the World) That there He may in the exalted Estate, perform what further per-tains note Him as the Saviour of Sin-Mark 16. 19. This affures us of the officacy and prevalence of His Intercefion, and the folid ground we have to depend upon Him for whatfoever He bath warranted us to ask in His Name, and expect from Him, Heb. 7.14, 15. John 14. 1, 2, 3.

6thly, By fending and giving forth

debly, By sending and giving forth the Holy Spirit for the purposes and ends for which He hath promised Him, viz. for the making of His Word and Ordinances effectual, for the Convention of Sinners, and the Edification and Comfort of true Believers, John 14, 16, 17, and 26. And here by the way we may takenotice, that He hath taught how we are to conceive of the

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the Holy Spirit, certifying that He is God, Acts 5. 1. 2. 4 Com 2, 16, 17. Now when a true Christian understands, that Christ Jefus hath given this account of the Holy Spirm, He is as much obliged to believe it, as He is to believe that Jeffich is the chairs and when he understands that Christ hath taught that the Parker, Primfelf, and the Holy Ghoff are God, that He faith such things of them, and requires such Homage and Worship to be paid unto them, as are peculiar unto God, and certifies that thefe Three are One, unto them, as are peculiar unto (Marth. 28. 19. 1 Jolin ()) He is obliged to affent unto and believe this Trath, as well as arry thing elfe that Christ hath taucht." It is as hard for me to reconcile a Perfons denying, or not believing this, when he knows that Christ Jesus hath taught it, with his being a fincere Christian, or having unreferredly referred himfelf up to Jesus Christ, as any Man can pretend it is to him, to tell how these three can be God, and yer there be but one God. I believe that the bather, Son, and Holy Spirit are God, because I find that Christ Jejus hath taught fo. And

And I any ground to Believe this galle, or to with head to ne know that Jeffer Con the head to the hea And I day Man can pretend he bath ground to believe this Article to be ld his offen, when he has full reason to believe that Fefur is the Mellos, nor to believe any point upon his Authority. For if we question the Truck of any thing we know He rought, we have the like reafon to question the Truth of every sting He taught. He that is apon nich Terms, can hardly deferve to be accounted a true Christian. He must be extraordinarily for und favourable to himfelf, if he can perfuade himfelf that is one. If I were not fully per-fuaded that Christ Jefus understood the Divine Nature, and knew how to (peak of it, better than any meer Man, I fhould not take him to be my Land and Savious It may be fome will fav. they do believe what Christ Jelus hath Parely, but they cannot believe the Dollrine of the Trinity as it is taught in certain Creeds, which are but of Humane Composure. To fuch I would fay, if you really know, and heartily believe all that Christ hach taught

taught concern le gongerning it. are now ordinahing of this Dodrine. than are used about it in the flely Scriptures yes the Doctum is but the Jame which Christ much orlien Words and Terms whichere now led, do not add any thing to bis Defirers they were not originally intended to make the Dedicine more perfet then Christ delivered it. The Docume continued as it was mught in the Holy Seriprures, till fome pre-fampings (not to fay malicious) Per-sons atturned to themfelves to affix such a faither Interpretation and Southerships or to the Wards of Christ, as did exceedingly alter this Dellaine, very much depreciating Christ Himself and the Holy Spicies degrading Christ into a meer Man though He Himfelf tought that He was God and teaching that the Haly Spirit was but the Power or Vintue of God, and not God, When this Method was used to corrept the Faith of Christ, fincere Christians found it expedient to make use of other +rion cr

other Words, which have been fuccefficiely retained. But they wied not thele words, with a delign to teach more than Christ had taught, only to deliver what He had the nght with a denial of that corrupt Seule falle Teachers had samps upon Hu Words. So that the Doctrine of the Trinity as it is ordinarily taught amongst us, is no other, than that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghoft are God, as Christ hath taught they are, and that we do reject that Sense and Confirmation, which Men of their own Heads and with-out any Authority have affixed to Christ's Dodrine it is but the Do apposition to, and devial of that Addition of Words, and Diminution of Senfe, which other People had introduced touching that which Christ had taught

To say that this Dockrine is contrary to Reason, is in effect to deny that Jeque is the Melhas, or Christ. Can the Fountain of Light and Reason, teach any thing that is contrary to Reason. Does not the Melhas. He that was commissioned to teach Men the Mind.

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Mind of God, know what is conformed to Reafon, better than we'dle it is not to be expected that People inbuild in good earned believe this Dattrine, fill they are fully perfuaded that Jefus is the Christ, and when they heartily believe that, there can be no ground to deny their affent to this, or any other Doctrine, there taught. We have this notice by Supernatural Revelation, that the Father is God, and that the Son is God, and that the Holy Ghoft is God, which we could not know by the meer Light of Nature. Now if those who say this Doctrine is against and contrary to Reafor, do mean no more, than that they find Christ hath revealed it, but they cannot auderstand any more con-cerning it, than what He hath re-realed, they are in the right, but they would do well, to express their meaning by decent and proper Terms, which may fignific the Senfe they have of their own and Humane meakness an not threw Unworthy and Blapher Afperfiant on a most certain Devine Truth and Doctrine. He that heartily believes that Jefus is the Christ, and takes

Infor his, L and Savieurs will; believe Wingtloever he knows Christ doch sauther tand will be consented to wait to know more than He bath sauchs concerning any Arricle, sill Heriball be olealed so make a further discovery of it. Our knowing that lehe Holy Spirit who is premifed, is God affords us of ragement to depend upon Him for and to aspect from Himodias and fishances suitable to our geraters, an luch Influences as will render Works, ACE and so nied was sould keep meion continued half awe of Him, and have a very bowerful and good distincte upon our Condicts on it inners it we have any care for, or created to our indifferently greatest interests. And therefore, are Chifshould keep weir stians should concern themselves, very much to understand as particularly as thev

they can, and make a good tale of what Christ bath chight relating to what I that hint unto you'll the next place on any

graph Thole Propulitions which acquaint us with the Boll Mile and acquaint us with the Boll Mile and Victor Inclinations and Lofes, He requires us to abstain from and more fies, and the Mile M. Duries He commands us to perform, as also in what manner it is His pleasure we obtain or parasonist. These the either general? oblige us to renounce all corresponding decisions, and abstain from every Victorians and Sin, and to exercise our serves in alk the Datter we see to God, our Neighbers), and our serves; water defeeding to mention particular inflances, our enpaging us to simploy our enquiries a bout them, that we obtain as difficult a knowledge of themes we can, fuch are Tit, 2, Ti, 2, MCbs, 7, Y. Those which are particular do name certain Vices, But Alts, and Lafts we must carefully from and arous, and Jubdue croun Graces, Virtues, and good Ads, we malt employ our felves in. There may be reduced to three Heads.

Flour, Otal Dhoft which consent all Gir Bland in comments I fib to which be-Relations they flands insurpro beliefs. And thought hich permit to them recording to the viction Bit and will Conditionship Providence of God tach place them in We thould endeaven to be advillingly sequenced? eneles as morean, athabiour committee may borne glany Griderly, sand it said and the Bouton Lad as received by part of that Received to Fellow Child had a more with the soul of God with the Bouton Child had a more with the soul of God with the Bouton Child had a more with the soul of th cred Records what contain the Dis coveres He harlaman of the Pares middle for the watermore arrenders any page of the fame but we shall be furell to meet want fome of chefts Amongstrall the change that Christ Telds hat beautiff, their are the least differ real one with profoundest Gover Bell more contradicted in the Practice said Lives of the Many all mi and the have the company

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is 6thing Thater Propolitions which relate what Privileges do purtuin to them who do by was brid John wight, which acquaint us white Berghts and values, and insthimable Blefings fuch Persons do partake of at prefeut and may further expect with good of bearer Macothen on brie fich with ai mod that they purpose of the Holy Solver and are made his Temples, 1 Colors Pardened on Salified and clasification of the Salified and clasified and clasified and research the Salified and made parties of a Orone Name Eph. 1. 1. (Gas over 180). 1. 1. Rom. 1. 14. creased the Children of the Claim at the Sail So 26. Rom. & carrier Have the Hely Angels to Mindler, and do many good Offices to them, Habor 14 That all accurences; even the most afficting that shall be ordered forthware them; finall be eveneraled so their helt advan-zoge: Rom. 8. 128: That there malifer shall at the end of the World on raised Cherious Bodies Phil. 3: 28. And that they shall inherit Eternal Life and Happiness in the next World, and have their Glorious Recompences advanced

vanced in proportion to what they Suffer for the Yake of Christ, and the improvement they make in their Obedience unto Him at prefent, 2 Thef. 1010. Manb. 25. 21, 34. Thele things, and every thing elfe which Christ hath taught of the like Nature, are ve proper and powerful Arguments to work and bafres He doth affen no whill we continue in this World, and to support and comford us under all the Calamities and Sufferings that may beful us here, bile , but

Those Propositions which inform us where Ordinances He buch influend and in what manner they are to be observed . As Baptism, the Ministry of the Word, and his Supper, Match. 28119, 20 Eph. 4.11, Gr. Match. 26. 27, 28. 1 Cor. 11. 23, Ge. These are appointed to be used as Pleages and Affurances of the Gracius Refeed Ged math to those who beartily believe in Christ, as Tellimonies of our Submiffion and Love unto our Lord; and as means by which We are to receive greater measures of the Graces and Influences of the Ho. Ly Spirit. Chrift

Christ Ifesis hath taught many Propositions relating to every one of these Heads, the knowing and undering of which, will contribute much towards our arriving at as clear, distinct, and full knowledge of these matters as is expedient for us. And He hath taught very many Propositions which may be reduced more pertinently to other Heads to which proper Titles may be assigned. Yet,

4thly, Tho there is not any thing Jesus Christ hath taught, but it is most certainly true, and hath its pro-perufe; there are four things of more common and eminent Importance; the knowledge of which, hath a most plain, direct, and immediate tendency, to nourish and firengthen our Faith in Him, to excite and maintain in us. Devent, Pious, and Divine Affections. and to affift and help us in forming our Conversations so, that they shall not only be Innecent, and without Offence, but Exemplary, and worthy of And thefe are the matters a True Christian should in the first place, and principally endeavour to be acquainted with, the he is not abfolutely

folutely to confine himself to them, but must labour to obtain the know-ledge of more, if he can, and to be continually growing in True Faith and Godliness of living. Therefore, 5thly, A good Collection of those

Propositions, which are of the greatest moment to True Christians to have a good knowledge of, and which Christ and his Apostles did most of all infift on, and peculiarly commend to Peoples Special notice, will be of great use to True Christians, in order to their atformation in matters which will be of motable ale to them. The we may not fay to true Believers with reference to any certain number of Articles, as God Almighty doth to the Waves of the Sea, Thus far Wall ye go, and no farther, nor politively determine that fuch a number of Articles must of necessity be explicitely understood and believed by every True Christian; yet their being provided with such a Collection of Articles well attested by the Holy Scriptures, would be very Serviceable, and yield them much advantage, if they have not a distinct notional

intional knowledge of them, before they are effectually brought to believe or know (in the manner before related) that Jefus is the Perfon God appointed and commissioned to be the only Saviour of Sinners. For.

6thly This admintage dorn accrue to People by their being early inflended in the Doctrines christ Jelus hath taught, and obtaining a true notional knowledge of the main matters, delivered in the New Testament, that when they come to know Christ fefus favingly they do immediately believe those Articles in another manner, and make a better use of them than they did before. And thus they will be excused from a great deal of Pains. they must otherwise take; to get the knowledge of thele soints, before they can apply themselves, to make a farther Pragress. Belides, the notional knowledge of fuch ancicles if attended to, with any tolerable Application. will conduce very much to Peoples Countition, and dispose them to submit themselves to Jesus, as the Christ and relign up themselves entirely to his Conduct

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withly, It is to far from being a Bles milb and Disadvantage to the christian Religion, that Christ Jesus hach taught so many Articles, it is its inestimable excellency. It is a singular Benefit, for which every good Christian ought to be very thankful. Indeed if no Man could be a True Christian, till he hath an explicite knowledge and belief of every thing Christ hach taught, then none but Men of extraordinary parts and pains could be True Christians, if any could be fo. But the matter is fo ordered, that nothing is made necessary to constitute a Person a Christian, but what the meanest of Mankind is capable of; and yet there is no Indulgence to Slorb and Idleness, not excule for wilful Ignorance in any, because there is nothing necessary to make a Perion a True Christian, but his knowing that Jefas is the Person God hath fent, and commissioned to be the only Saviour of Sinners, to as to take Him unfeignedly to be his Lord.
And this doth indispensably oblige
him to use his best endeavours to
know, and make a right use of what Christ hath Revealed. And He hath provided

provided to abundantly for the improving and bettering of our Minds and Practices, that how long foever we live, we may be growing and increasing in the knowledge of those matters, which will exceedingly improve and beautific our Intellectuals, advantage and adorn our Conversations and

Lives.

Therefore let us remember what the Wife Man faith, Wifdom is the principal thing, therefore get Wisdom, and with all thy getting get Understanding, Prov. 4.7. Let us labour to understand aright the Doctrine of Christ Jefus, and get the knowledge of Him as our Lord, and endeavour contiqually to grow up more and more in the knowledge of Him, and of what He hath revealed. Then we shall know by Experience, that the excellency of this knowledge is such, that all that words can express con-cerning it, falls abundantly short of discovering the whole Truth. The pleasure that ariseth from the most accurate discourse concerning Christ Jefus, is as much short of what a Perfon perceives in himself, upon his knowprovider

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knowing Christ Jesus favinely, as the fatisfaction which springs from the most Philosophical description of Honey, is short of that pleasure Jonathan felt in bimself when his Eyes were opened, and all his faculties revived upon his tasting it. The excellency of Food is unexpressibly better perceived by an hungry Person, when he finds himself refreshed and strengthened upon his eating and digesting it, than by any words that can be used to let forth its Nature and Properties. When you come to know Christ Jesus so, as to yield up your felves entirely to Him, you will be fully of St. Raul's mind, and account all things but lofs, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jefus your Lord.

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